

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 3, 1909, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Washington, D. C. March 3rd 1909. My dear Alec:

It seems very natural to be home again, and I am very glad to be here. At the same time I wish I could be with you in Beinn Bhreagh. I did have a lovely time and I hate having you alone there. I know you are happy with your work and with Douglas, but I want you and sometimes I feel very lonely, it is strange to be suddenly cut off from all the Beinn Bhreagh interests and among people to whom they are more or less unknown.

I am so anxious to know what you and Douglas are doing. How are his trials of the motor coming out? What exactly is being done about the Cygnet and Drome No 6. I went down to the bank first thing after my arrival and Charlie sent the cheque on to Douglas. Tell him I thought of my reproach to him for requisitions without friendly greetings, but in the bank and with no facilities it wasn't so easy.

I think Charlie is a good deal disappointed at Gardiner's return and feels very helpless as to what to do with him. Said he had not yet said anything to him of his intentions. I feel sorry for Charlie. After all there are compensations in having no sons of one's own. I am sure Gardiner is much the result of his up-bringing, and I would not like to claim I could have done any better, and perhaps in some respects as well.

I am sending you Mamma's copy of World's Work. Isn't it 2 nice to see it in print? I wish you could send more contributions to papers that appeal to the general public like World's work, Century, etc., etc.

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I am out here with Mamma and tomorrow's all the talk. How I wish they would change the date. I want to see the soldiers marching past, but the long wait in the cold and probable rain is a heavy price to pay.

The general style of ladies dress here reminds me of the mermaids long body tapering to a sinuous spreading tail so — see? I've grown so fat I can't get in the dress Daisy and Grace had made for me. Daisy says I am most as big around as she. I want to hear more about Casey's Toronto experiences, all about everything. Meantime I am loving you and my love to Douglas and Casey.

Your Mabel. But it's your birthday and darling I am thankful for all the years of you that have been given me and the world. And may they be many more with continued youth and splendid vigor. I fear the birthday gift from Daisy and David will be deferred!